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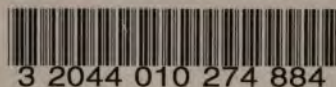
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CONSTITUTION

Cover

OF

THE BROOK FARM ASSOCIATION //

FOR

INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION,

WEST ROXBURY, MASS.

WITH

AN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

SECOND EDITION,

WITH THE

BY-LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

BOSTON:

I. R. BUTTS, PRINTER,

No. 2 School Street.

1844.

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CONSTITUTION

OF

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NOTICE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

SINCE the publication of the first edition of our Constitution and Introductory Statement, the public interest in Association, has greatly increased both in this vicinity, and throughout the country generally. With the conviction now beginning to pervade all classes of society, that in the incoherence and conflict of interests which characterize civilization, there can be no permanent security either for private rights or public order, the doctrines of social unity, and attractive industry, are taking a sure and deep hold. Already the Phalansterian movement in the United States embraces persons of every station in life, and in its extent, and influence on questions of importance, is fast assuming a national character.

In this state of things, the friends of the cause will be gratified to learn, that the appeal in behalf of Brook Farm, contained in our Introductory Statement, has been generously answered, and that the situation of the Association is highly encouraging. In the half year that has elapsed, our numbers have been increased by the addition of many skilful and enthusiastic laborers, in various departments, and our capital has been enlarged by the subscription of about ten thousand dollars. Our organization has acquired a more systematic form, though with our comparatively small numbers we can only approximate to truly scientific arrangements. Still with

the unavoidable deficiencies of our groups and series, their action is remarkable, and fully justifies our anticipations of great results from applying the principles of universal order to industry.

In education also, we have succeeded in introducing arrangements of great value, which would be impossible in a society of isolated families; though this, as well as other departments, is still in process of formation.

We have made considerable agricultural improvements; we have erected a work-shop sixty feet by twenty-eight, for mechanics of several trades, some of which are already in operation, and we are now engaged in building a section, one hundred and seventy-five feet by forty, of a Phalanstery or Unitary dwelling. Our first object is to collect those who, from their character and convictions, are qualified to aid in the experiment we are engaged in, and to furnish them with convenient and comfortable habitations, at the smallest possible outlay. For this purpose the most careful economy is used, though we are yet able to attain many of the peculiar advantages of the associated household. Still for a transitional society, and for comparatively temporary use, a social edifice cannot be made free from the defects of civilized architecture. When our Phalanx has become sufficiently large, and has in some measure accomplished its great purposes, the Serial organization of labor and Unitary education, we shall have it in our power to build a Phalanstery with the magnificence and permanence proper to such a structure.

Cheering as are the results of our endeavors, we wish to have it distinctly understood that they have been, and for some time must be, merely preparatory labors. We would then again invite the personal coöperation of all suitable persons, and the investment of the funds necessary to a complete application of Fourier's theory of industrial organization.

We call upon the wise and humane to lend their aid to an undertaking which, in the growing insufficiency and insecurity of civilized institutions bases its promise of a better state of

things not on mere human wisdom, but on the science of universal laws. We appeal to those who can perceive that the true road to general well-being, is not to be reached by legislative deliberations, or by political or benevolent expedients, but by reverent investigation of the methods of divine order and faithful application of the same to society;—to those who look with alarm upon the growth of pauperism, and civilized slavery;—to those who in despairing sympathy for the masses begin to feel the necessity of an integral philanthropy;—but more than all, to those who are inspired by the sublime ideas of social and universal unity with a deeper faith in God, and a more assured hope of man.

We appeal to them for assistance in the practical demonstration of a scientific theory, which solves the great social problems that have convulsed the world for the last century, and which discloses to man a destiny worthy of his aspirations and energies, and of that beneficent and infinite Being by whom the universe is forever upheld and renewed.

BROOK FARM, OCT. 1844.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

THE Association at Brook Farm has now been in existence upwards of two years. Originating in the thought and experience of a few individuals, it has hitherto worn, for the most part, the character of a private experiment, and has avoided rather than sought, the notice of the public. It has, until the present time, seemed fittest to those engaged in this enterprise to publish no statements of their purposes or methods, to make no promises or declarations, but quietly and sincerely to realise, as far as might be possible, the great ideas which gave the central impulse to their movement. It has been thought that a steady endeavor to embody these ideas more and more perfectly in life, would give the best answer, both to the hopes of the friendly and the cavils of the sceptical, and furnish in its results the surest grounds for any larger efforts.

Meanwhile every step has strengthened the faith with which we set out; our belief in a divine order of human society, has in our own minds become an absolute certainty; and considering the present state of humanity and of social science, we do not hesitate to affirm, that the world is much nearer the attainment of such a condition than is generally supposed.

The deep interest in the doctrine of Association, which

now fills the minds of intelligent persons every where, indicates plainly that the time has passed when even initiative movements ought to be prosecuted in silence, and makes it imperative on all who have either a theoretical or practical knowledge of the subject to give their share to the stock of public information.

Accordingly, we have taken occasion at several public meetings recently held in Boston, to state some of the results of our studies and experience, and we desire here to say emphatically, that while on the one hand we yield an unqualified assent to that doctrine of universal unity which Fourier teaches, so on the other, our whole observation has shown us the truth of the practical arrangements which he deduces therefrom. The law of groups and series is, as we are convinced, the law of human nature, and when men are in true social relations their industrial organization will necessarily assume those forms.

But beside the demand for information respecting the principles of Association, there is a deeper call for action in the matter. We wish, therefore, to bring Brook Farm before the public, as a location offering at least as great advantages for a thorough experiment as can be found in the vicinity of Boston. It is situated in West Roxbury, three miles from the depot of the Dedham Branch Rail Road, and about eight miles from Boston, and combines a convenient nearness to the city with a degree of retirement and freedom from unfavorable influences, unusual even in the country. The place is one of great natural beauty, and indeed the whole landscape is so rich and various as to attract the notice even of casual visitors. The farm now owned by the Association contains two hundred and eight acres, of as good quality as any land in the neighborhood of Boston, and can be enlarged by the purchase of land adjoining to any necessary extent. The property now in the hands of the Association is worth nearly or quite thirty thousand dollars, of which about twenty-two thousand dollars is invested either in the stock of the company, or in permanent loans to it at six per cent., which can remain as long as the Association may wish.

The fact that so large an amount of capital is already invested and at our service as the basis of more extensive operations, furnishes a reason why Brook Farm should be chosen as the scene of that practical trial of Association which the public feeling calls for in this immediate vicinity, instead of forming an entirely new organization for that purpose.

The completeness of our educational department is also not to be overlooked. This has hitherto received our greatest care, and in forming it we have been particularly successful. In any new Association it must be many years before so many accomplished and skilful teachers in the various branches of intellectual culture could be enlisted. Another strong reason is to be found in the degree of order our organization has already attained, by the help of which a large Association might be formed without the losses and inconveniences which would otherwise necessarily occur. The experience of nearly three years in all the misfortunes and mistakes incident to an undertaking so new and so little understood, carried on throughout by persons not entirely fitted for the duties they have been compelled to perform, has, as we think, prepared us to assist in the safe conduct of an extensive and complete Association.

Such an institution, as will be plain to all, cannot, by any sure means, be brought at once and full grown into existence. It must at least in the present state of society, begin with a comparatively small number of select and devoted persons, and increase by natural and gradual aggregations. With a view to an ultimate expansion into a perfect Phalanx, we desire without any delay to organize the three primary departments of labor, namely, Agriculture, Domestic Industry, and the Mechanic Arts.

For this purpose additional capital will be needed, which it is most desirable should be invested by those who propose to connect themselves personally with the institution. These should be men and women accustomed to labor, skilful, careful, in good health, and, more than all, imbued with the idea of Association, and ready to consecrate themselves without reserve to its realization. For it ought to be known that the work we propose is a difficult one, and except to the most entire faith and resolution, will offer insurmountable obstacles and discouragements. Neither will it be possible to find in Association at the outset the great outward advantages it ultimately promises. The first few years must be passed in constant and unwearied labor, lightened chiefly by the consciousness of high aims and the inward content that devotion to a universal object cannot fail to bring. Still there are certain tangible compensations which Association guaranties immediately. These are freedom from pecuniary anxiety, and the evils of competitive industry, free and friendly society, and the education of children. How great these are, those

who have felt the terrible burdens which the present civilized society imposes in these respects will not need to be informed.

Those who may wish to further this cause by investments of money only will readily perceive that their end is not likely to be lost in an Association whose means are devoted mainly to productive industry, and where nothing will ever be risked in uncertain speculations.

The following Constitution is the same as that under which we have hitherto acted, with such alterations as, on a careful revision, seemed needful. All persons who are not familiar with the purposes of Association, will understand from this document that we propose a radical and universal reform, rather than to redress any particular wrong, or to remove the sufferings of any single class of human beings. We do this in the light of universal principles, in which all differences, whether of religion, or politics, or philosophy, are reconciled, and the dearest and most private hope of every man has the promise of fulfilment. Herein, let it be understood, we would remove nothing that is truly beautiful or venerable; we reverence the religious sentiment in all its forms, the family, and whatever else has its foundation either in human nature or the Divine Providence. The work we are engaged in is not destruction, but true conservation: it is not a mere revolution, but, as we are assured, a necessary step in the course of social progress which no one can be blind enough to think has yet reached its limit. We believe that humanity, trained by these long centuries of suffering and struggle, led onward by so many saints and heroes and sages, is at length prepared to enter into that universal order, toward which it has perpetually moved. Thus we recognize the worth of the whole Past and of every doctrine and institution it has bequeathed us; thus also we perceive that the Present has its own high mission, and we shall only say what is beginning to be seen by all sincere thinkers, when we declare that the imperative duty of this time and this country, nay more, that its only salvation, and the salvation of all civilized countries, lies in the Reorganization of Society, according to the unchanging laws of human nature and of universal harmony.

We look, then, to the generous and hopeful of all classes for sympathy, for encouragement and for actual aid, not to ourselves only, but to all those who are engaged in this great work. And whatever may be the result of any special efforts, we can never doubt that the object we have in view

will finally be attained ; that human life shall yet be developed, not in discord and misery, but in harmony and joy, and that the perfected earth shall at last bear on her bosom a race of men worthy of the name.

GEORGE RIPLEY,
MINOT PRATT,
CHARLES A. DANA, } *Directors.*

Brook Farm, West Roxbury, Mass., }
January 18, 1844.

CONSTITUTION.

IN order more effectually to promote the great purposes of human culture ; to establish the external relations of life on a basis of wisdom and purity ; to apply the principles of justice and love to our social organization in accordance with the laws of Divine Providence ; to substitute a system of brotherly coöperation for one of selfish competition ; to secure to our children and those who may be entrusted to our care the benefits of the highest physical, intellectual and moral education, which in the progress of knowledge the resources at our command will permit ; to institute an attractive, efficient, and productive system of industry ; to prevent the exercise of worldly anxiety, by the competent supply of our necessary wants ; to diminish the desire of excessive accumulation, by making the acquisition of individual property subservient to upright and disinterested uses ; to guarantee to each other forever the means of physical support, and of spiritual progress ; and thus to impart a greater freedom, simplicity, truthfulness, refinement, and moral dignity, to our mode of life ; — we the undersigned do unite in a voluntary Association, and adopt and ordain the following articles of agreement, to wit :

ARTICLE I.**NAME AND MEMBERSHIP.**

SEC. 1. The name of this Association shall be "THE BROOK-FARM ASSOCIATION FOR INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION." All persons who shall hold one or more shares in its stock, or whose labor and skill shall be considered an equivalent for capital, may be admitted by the vote of two-thirds of the Association, as members thereof.

SEC. 2. No member of the Association shall ever be subjected to any religious test; nor shall any authority be assumed over individual freedom of opinion by the Association, nor by one member over another; nor shall any one be held accountable to the Association, except for such overt acts, or omissions of duty, as violate the principles of justice, purity, and love, on which it is founded; and in such cases the relation of any member may be suspended or discontinued, at the pleasure of the Association.

ARTICLE II.**CAPITAL STOCK.**

SEC. 1. The members of this Association shall own and manage such real and personal estate in joint stock proprietorship, divided into shares of one hundred dollars each, as may from time to time be agreed on.

SEC. 2. No share-holder shall be liable to any assessment whatever on the shares held by him; nor shall he be held responsible individually in his private property on account of the Association; nor shall the Trustees or any officer or agent of the Association have any authority to do any thing which shall impose personal responsibility on any share-holder, by making any contracts or incurring any debts for which the share-holders shall be individually or personally responsible.

SEC. 3. The Association guaranties to each share-holder the interest of five per cent. annually on the amount of stock held by him in the Association, and this interest may be paid

in certificates of stock and credited on the books of the Association; provided that each share-holder may draw on the funds of the Association for the amount of interest due at the third annual settlement from the time of investment.

SEC. 4. The share-holders on their part for themselves, their heirs and assigns, do renounce all claim on any profits accruing to the Association for the use of their capital invested in the stock of the Association, except five per cent. interest on the amount of stock held by them, payable in the manner described in the preceding section.

ARTICLE III.

GUARANTIES.

SEC. 1. The Association shall provide such employment for all its members as shall be adapted to their capacities, habits, and tastes; and each member shall select and perform such operations of labor, whether corporal or mental, as shall be deemed best suited to his own endowments and the benefit of the Association.

SEC. 2. The Association guaranties to all its members, their children and family dependents, house-rent, fuel, food, and clothing, and the other necessities of life, without charge, not exceeding a certain fixed amount to be decided annually by the Association; no charge shall ever be made for support during inability to labor from sickness or old age, or for medical or nursing attendance, except in case of share-holders, who shall be charged therefor, and also for the food and clothing of children, to an amount not exceeding the interest due to them on settlement; but no charge shall be made to any member for education or the use of library and public rooms.

SEC. 3. Members may withdraw from labor, under the direction of the Association, and in that case, they shall not be entitled to the benefit of the above guaranties.

SEC. 4. Children over ten years of age shall be provided with employment in suitable branches of industry; they shall

be credited for such portions of each annual dividend, as shall be decided by the Association, and on the completion of their education in the Association at the age of twenty, shall be entitled to a certificate of stock to the amount of credits in their favor, and may be admitted as members of the Association.

ARTICLE IV.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS.

SEC. 1. The net profits of the Association, after the payment of all expenses, shall be divided into a number of shares corresponding to the number of day's labor; and every member shall be entitled to one share for every day's labor performed by him.

SEC. 2. A full settlement shall be made with every member once a year, and certificates of stock given for all balances due; but in case of need, to be decided by himself, every member may be permitted to draw on the funds in the Treasury to an amount not exceeding the credits in his favor for labor performed.

ARTICLE V.

GOVERNMENT.

SEC. 1. The government of the Association shall be vested in a board of Directors, divided into four departments, as follows: 1st, General Direction; 2d, Direction of Education; 3d, Direction of Industry; 4th, Direction of Finance; consisting of three persons each, provided that the same person may be elected member of each Direction.

SEC. 2. The General Direction and Direction of Education shall be chosen annually, by the vote of a majority of the members of the Association. The Direction of Finance shall be chosen annually, by the vote of a majority of the share-holders and members of the Association. The Direction of Industry shall consist of the chiefs of the three primary series.

SEC. 3. The chairman of the General Direction shall be the President of the Association, and together with the Direction of Finance, shall constitute a board of Trustees, by whom the property of the Association shall be held and managed.

SEC. 4. The General Direction shall oversee and manage the affairs of the Association, so that every department shall be carried on in an orderly and efficient manner.

SEC. 5. The departments of Education and Finance shall be under the control each of its own Direction, which shall select, and in concurrence with the General Direction, shall appoint such teachers, officers, and agents, as shall be necessary to the complete and systematic organization of the department. No Directors or other officers shall be deemed to possess any rank superior to the other members of the Association, nor shall they receive any extra remuneration for their official services.

SEC. 6. The department of Industry shall be arranged in groups and series, as far as practicable, and shall consist of three primary series; to wit, Agricultural, Mechanical, and Domestic Industry. The chief of each series shall be elected every two months by the members thereof, subject to the approval of the General Direction. The chief of each group shall be chosen weekly by its members.

ARTICLE VI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SEC. 1. The Association may from time to time adopt such by-laws, not inconsistent with the spirit and purpose of these articles, as shall be found expedient or necessary.

SEC. 2. In order to secure to the Association the benefits of the highest discoveries in social science, and to preserve its fidelity to the principles of progress and reform, on which it is founded, any amendment may be proposed to this Constitution at a meeting called for the purpose; and if approved by two-thirds of the members at a subsequent meeting, at least one month after the date of the first, shall be adopted.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

ADMISSION AND DISMISSAL OF APPLICANTS, CANDIDATES, BOARDERS, AND PUPILS.

SEC. 1. Persons wishing to become members, must first reside on the place as Applicants for one month; at the conclusion of which term, or at any earlier period, the Board of Directors may request them to withdraw.

SEC. 2. Applicants who have passed acceptably through their term, may become Candidates, and may remain in this new relation for one month more, when they may be admitted as Associates on the nomination of any Associate, after notice given at the first meeting previous to that at which they shall be admitted.

SEC. 3. The admission of Applicants shall be decided by the Association, but public notice of every application must be given within forty-eight and not less than twenty-four hours of the decision.

SEC. 4. Applicants and Candidates shall perform the same labor in their respective functions, in the groups and series, as Associates; and their board shall be considered a full equivalent for their services.

SEC. 5. Boarders and Pupils may be received by the Directors, and without public notice.

SEC. 6. When individuals shall cease to fulfil the obligations by virtue of which they are recognized as inmates, it shall be the duty of the General Direction to provide measures for their prompt removal from the Domain.

ARTICLE II.**PERSONAL PROPERTY.**

SEC. 1. Personal property may be received as stock by the Direction of Finance, when it shall be deemed advantageous for the Association ; it shall be appraised by suitable persons, to be appointed by that Direction, and their appraisal, if not accepted within three days after it is made, shall be considered as rejected.

SEC. 2. Persons on becoming residents on the Domain, shall deliver to the Direction of Finance an exact inventory of all furniture and implements, which they may retain as private property ; which inventory shall be compared with the articles specified, and filed in the office of that Direction.

ARTICLE III.**DISTRIBUTION OF APARTMENTS.**

SEC. 1. The Board of Directors shall every three months appoint a committee of five persons, who shall have charge of the distribution of apartments and furniture.

ARTICLE IV.**GROUPS AND SERIES.**

SEC. 1. New Groups and Series may be formed from time to time for the prosecution of different branches of industry, by members of the Association who have passional attraction therefor, subject to the sanction of the General Direction.

SEC. 2. The Chief of any Series, in concurrence with the Chiefs of Groups belonging to that Series, may form temporary Groups for the complete and efficient accomplishment of the various branches of industry committed to that Series.

SEC. 3. Persons desirous of being admitted as members of any Group, may become so, by the consent of the Group after having gone through with such a noviciate as the Group may regularly prescribe.

SEC. 4. Each Group may elect those persons for members, whom it may deem worthy and desirable.

SEC. 5. Each Group may request the withdrawal of such members as may be found unnecessary or prejudicial to the operations of the Group.

SEC. 6. In case of differences of opinion in regard to the arrangement of industry, between the Chief and any member of the Group, the Chief shall decide ; but in all such cases, an appeal may be made to the Group, the decision of a majority of whom shall be final.

SEC. 7. No person shall join any Group temporarily, except by consent of the Chief of the Group.

SEC. 8. Groups, whose force is deficient shall apply to the Chief of the Series, who shall supply the deficiency. The labor of persons thus supplied shall enter into the regular account of the Group.

SEC. 9. Juvenile members of any Group may be allowed to vote in the Group by consent of the members.

ARTICLE V.

LABOR.

SEC. 1. Three hundred days' shall be considered a year's labor, and shall entitle the person performing it, to a full share of the year's dividend.

SEC. 2. The hours of labor from the first of October to the first of April, shall be at least eight hours daily, and from the first of April to the first of October, shall be at least ten hours daily ; and no person shall be credited for labor beyond that length of time.

SEC. 3. The Chief of each Group shall keep an account of the time employed in labor by each member of the Group, and shall report the same weekly to the Chief of the Series to which the group belongs, who shall make a monthly report of the same to the Clerk of the Direction of Finance.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Board of Directors shall make a monthly return to the same Clerk, of the time employed in official functions by each member of the Board.

SEC. 5. The Chief of the Direction of Education shall make a monthly return of the time employed by each person in duties in that department.

SEC. 6. The Clerk of the Direction of Finance shall every month make up the account of time employed in labor by the whole Association, for the inspection of the Board of Directors ; and the yearly dividend shall be made in accordance with this account.

SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of the Chief of each Group to prevent excessive exertion on the part of any member of the Group, to the prejudice of health.

ARTICLE VI.

FINANCIAL CONCERNS.

SEC. 1. No debt shall be contracted in behalf of the Association by any person whomsoever.

SEC. 2. All agents, or persons disbursing money on account of the Association, shall deliver to the Clerk a specific account of every expenditure, with all necessary vouchers, as soon after the time of the expenditure as possible.

SEC. 3. The Direction of Finance shall lay before the Association a complete statement of its financial condition at the end of every three months.

SEC. 4. Articles furnished to Associates shall be charged at cost, as nearly as the same can be ascertained.

ARTICLE VII.

EDUCATION.

SEC. 1. The period of Education shall extend from birth to the age of twenty years, and shall be divided into three stages, namely: Infancy, from birth to six years; Pupilage, from six to sixteen; and Probation, from sixteen to twenty.

SEC. 2. The education during the stage of Infancy shall be conducted by persons who have a passionnal attraction for the care of young children, in apartments proper for the purpose, furnished with suitable apparatus.

SEC. 3. The education during the stage of Pupilage shall be both physical and intellectual, under the guidance of appropriate teachers.

SEC. 4. The education during the stage of Probation shall be in the practical duties of Associates.

SEC. 5. Instruction shall be provided for all Probationers and Associates, who may wish to study in any department, provided that such instruction shall in no case interfere with the discharge of their duties in their respective Groups.

ARTICLE VIII.

MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

SEC. 1. Meetings of the Association may be called at any time by the Board of Directors.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to call meetings whenever they shall be requested so to do in writing by at least five Associates.

SEC. 3. Notice of the meetings and of the purposes for which they are called shall be given by the Secretary, at least eight hours before the time of meeting.

SEC. 4. A majority of the members of the Association shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SEC. 5. No public meeting for business or amusement shall be protracted beyond the hour of ten P. M.

ARTICLE IX.

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS.

SEC. 1. The By-Laws may be amended or repealed by a majority of any meeting of the Association, provided that notice of such amendment or repeal shall have been given at least forty-eight hours before the meeting.

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